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Olympic
Dreams**



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When you finish reading Faith & Friends in the centre of this issue, pull it out and give it to someone who needs to hear about Christ's life-changing power

Salvationist.ca



Generally Speaking

Listen to John McAlister interview General Shaw Clifton about the opportunities and challenges of multiculturalism, the importance of

recovering our social justice advocacy role and his hopes for the Atlantic Congress and Commissioning in St. John's, N.L. Visit Salvationist.ca/General-Clifton-Interview2010 to access the audio feature

World Watch

Keep abreast of what the Army is doing internationally. Visit Salvationist.ca/worldwatch to read more about the Army's work in 120 countries

Imagine a World . . .

Imagine a world where no one goes to bed hungry, every child has access to an education, maternity health care is universal and child mortality rates are a fraction of what they are today. Imagine a world with gender equality and where malaria and other diseases do not claim hundreds of millions of lives each year. Imagine a planet where the rainforests aren't stripped bare and fresh water bodies are protected and preserved for present and future generations. Does this sound idealistic? Like an impossible dream? Given the poverty and the state of destitution in the lives of people in Latin America, Africa and dozens of other developing regions of the world, we can be forgiven for wondering whether such an idyllic world will ever come to be.

At the risk of sounding naive, allow me to suggest that such a world is possible. It was this kind of imagining that took place in September 2000, when the Millennium Summit was convened at the United Nations and the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the Millennium Declaration. The declaration by these 189 heads of government was to "free all men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty" by the year 2015. Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to address issues such as poverty reduction policies, promotion of education, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. These goals are listed on page 21 in this issue of *Salvationist*.

Ten years have passed since the MDGs were declared. Considerable progress has

been made in countries such as China and India, while other countries such as those in Sub-Saharan Africa fall further and further behind. Other regions have mixed records including Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa. There is much to do and only a few years remain to achieve these objectives. Promises remain unfulfilled and approximately 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty.

The G8 leaders will meet this June in Huntsville, Ont. The Millennium Development Goals will be part of their agenda. Representatives from the world's major religions will meet in Winnipeg just prior to the G8 Summit. This is not a new thing. In fact, the world's faith communities have gathered together every year since 2005 in the lead-up to the G8 Summits and have prepared a joint statement for presentation to the G8. Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Aboriginal, Jewish and other faith leaders will meet together to focus on the Millennium Development Goals and the promises made by world leaders in 2000. Commissioner William W. Francis, our territorial commander, will be one of the delegates who will finalize a statement for presentation to the leaders of the world's richest countries. An excerpt from the draft statement can be found on page 20. You can read the entire text by visiting salvationist.ca/world-religions-summit.

Will the June meetings of the G8 and world's religion leaders make a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor? The issues are complex. There are plenty of excuses as to why things won't change, but there are also 1.4 billion reasons why they must. There are positive steps that we can each take to make this happen. Stay informed of the issues. Sign the online petition expressing support for the faith community's statement to the G8 leaders at www.faithchallengeg8.com. Pray for the leaders who are charged with the responsibility of making good decisions.

For the first time in history, government leaders from around the world have vowed to eradicate extreme poverty using the resources, knowledge and technology at their disposal. Imagine the possibilities.

MAJOR JIM CHAMP
Editor-in-Chief



Giving Hope Today

Salvationist

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Mission

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. *Salvationist* informs readers about the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda.

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Rebuilding a Better Haiti

Army reopens school in earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince

Since a massive earthquake shook the Caribbean country of Haiti in January, Salvation Army teams have focused their attention on meeting the basic needs of survivors for food, water, shelter and medical assistance in some of the most devastated regions of the island nation.

The main focus for Salvation Army relief teams continues to be the 20,000 people living near the main Army compound in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Located in one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of the city, the compound includes a school for 1,500 students, a children's home for 52 orphans, a medical clinic and a 1,000-seat corps building. The Army has reopened the school on a temporary site within the compound, where Army workers can provide children with security, nutrition and medical assistance—a sign that life goes on.

In an effort to better serve the people in its care, the Army is working with international delivery company UPS to replace handwritten ration cards with high-tech barcode technology to ensure that more than 4,000 families receive food, shelter and medical supplies.



Above: Lt-Col Lindsay Rowe visits with Haitian children; below: UPS-supplied ration cards are easy to use, durable and make distribution more efficient

Lt-Colonel Lindsay Rowe, a Canadian officer serving as chief secretary in the Caribbean Territory, travelled to Haiti to witness relief efforts first-hand. "We continue to be moved by the support the Caribbean Territory is receiving from around the world," he says. "Our most urgent needs are for prayer and finances to sustain a long-term commitment to rebuild a better Haiti."



Source of Life

Army corps provides clean water to Chilean earthquake survivors



Following the February 27 earthquake and tsunami that devastated much of Chile, Salvation Army emergency services were dispatched to help meet the immediate need of survivors for food, water and medical assistance. An emergency service mobile canteen as well as three vehicles filled with provisions and relief personnel were sent to Concepcion, one of the most damaged cities.

At Hualpencillo Corps, near Concepcion, tents were set up to house 60 displaced families and the corps' kitchen used to prepare meals. Some of the tents were occupied by Salvation Army soldiers from Hualpencillo whose homes had been washed away by the tsunami. Clean water is being supplied from a well that had been dug more than five years earlier, but never used, to water the lawns and gardens around the Army property. Thanks to the installation of a pump and a donated generator, water from the well has become a source of life for the people at Hualpencillo.

The Salvation Army in Canada contributed US\$58,000 to assist Chile with ongoing relief efforts.

Salvation Army personnel bring practical assistance and a friendly greeting to earthquake survivors on the streets of Chile

Warm Clothes for Haitians

ON FEBRUARY 17, from 3 a.m. to 5:30 a.m., Major Herbert Sharp, corps officer in Brampton, Ont., and his team transported three vans of winter clothing from Army thrift stores in Brampton, Toronto and Newmarket, Ont., for 110 Haitians who were arriving at Pearson International Airport, Toronto, following the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti. Some of the Haitians stayed in the Toronto area, but the majority were taken to Montreal and Ottawa. Major Sharp co-ordinated the relief effort with Andre Beauregard, community emergency management co-ordinator, Peel Region, and with the assistance of various non-governmental organizations and airport authorities.

Most of the evacuees were Canadian citizens living in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. Among them were children being adopted by Canadian families.



Cpt Theresa Burry, director of emergency disaster services, Ottawa, helps Haitian evacuees

Trenton Supports the Troops

THE ARREST OF BASE COMMANDER Colonel Russell Williams for the murders of two young women on February 8 was a shock to the city of Trenton, Ont. To demonstrate the city's support for the troops, Mayor John Williams organized a military appreciation rally on Saturday, February 20. The community wanted to show the personnel of CFB Trenton that in spite of the charges against Colonel Williams, they were extremely proud to be the home of Canada's largest Air Force base. Captain Stephen Manuel, corps officer in Trenton, arranged for Oshawa Temple's emergency services vehicle to be on hand so that they could serve coffee and hot chocolate at the event. "My wife and I were glad to participate in the rally," says Captain Manuel. "We were equally proud of our people. Though our corps is small, we had more than 20 members out to show their support—some using canes, walkers and even a motorized scooter."



Cpt Stephen Manuel, Trenton CC, speaks to Col David Cochrane, the new Canadian Forces Base Commander at Trenton, Ont.

Alberni Valley Provides Milk for Kids

THE SALVATION ARMY in Port Alberni, B.C., accepts about 78 litres of milk every day from Island Farms as part of the Milk for Kids program. The Army strives to fill food baskets with a variety of nutritious options. Island Farms saw the Army's need to include milk for children, particularly considering the difficult economic times. With provincial funding cuts to services for children and families, and the changing job status at the mills in Port Alberni, families often resort to food hampers. "The program is a blessing for us," said Captain Neil Wilkinson, corps officer, Alberni Valley.



Cpt Neil Wilkinson helps unload cartons of milk for children in the Alberni Valley

Recharged in Oshawa

OSHAWA TEMPLE HELD a corps retreat on Sunday, January 10, giving members an opportunity to re-centre their lives around Jesus. Colonel Floyd Tidd, then divisional commander, Ontario Central-East Division, was the leader and spoke on the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians. Colonel Tidd emphasized that Jesus can only be Lord when we respond to him by dealing with our sin. Worship culminated with the participants being invited to receive a white flag, signifying their surrender to Jesus, and then firmly planting it in soil prepared on the holiness table.

"God recharged lives that may have been exhausted or ensnared in religious routines," says Lt-Colonel Ray Moulton, corps member. "When a congregation's world revolves around Jesus, mission is on target, spiritual life is overflowing and love is expressed in relationships."

Children Enjoy Pioneer Clubs at Trinity Bay South



Nearly 100 children participate in Pioneer Club at Trinity Bay South

PIONEER CLUBS IS THRIVING at Trinity Bay South in Dildo, N.L., with 97 children registered (45 non-Army) and an average weekly attendance of 80. They have 10 leaders and nine helpers.

"When our church family hears how many children are involved in this program they are thrilled," says Captain Chris Pilgrim, corps officer. "They have been eager to help in every way possible, through fundraisers, providing food and

giving their time. Whenever we have a Pioneer Sunday, where children are involved and presented with badges, it becomes an energetic day with a large attendance by the young people's families as well as the rest of our church."

There are four sections of Pioneers from ages four to 12: Scooters, Voyagers, Pathfinders and Trailblazers. Captain Pilgrim attributes the growth to strong, creative leadership and to the young people

encouraging their friends to join.

"The children enjoy interacting with their friends, doing crafts, cooking, building things, painting, going on nature walks and learning about God through studying the Bible," says Captain Pilgrim. "They also learn interactive songs for worship that they really love. We offer them a solid spiritual foundation and safe after-school activities, and we've seen the difference it makes in their lives."

Prairie Division Trains Youth for Mission

TO ENSURE YOUNG SALVATIONISTS continue to serve the Lord and remain in the Army, the Prairie Division is helping teens develop a missional mindset. "Every summer we will hold an outreach camp," explains Captain Corrine Cameron, area youth secretary, Saskatchewan. "Each fall we will also hold an evangelistic youth councils to combine the young people from teen camp with those who regularly attend our corps. Each spring we will conduct an event to help those who already know Jesus to connect with him more deeply through missions."

At the Unlock Your Mission training weekend at Beaver Creek Camp in March, the young people made masks to show how they are shaped by God with unique personalities and abilities for his purposes. They also discovered their spiritual gifts by doing a gift inventory. This year's evangelism project was Kidz Konnect, a junior youth councils for Saskatchewan children that was held at the end of April.

"In the training sessions, the teens were placed in four gift-based missional groups: worship, drama, games and crafts," says Captain Cameron.

On the Sunday morning, participants were given a covenant bracelet to help them remember to pray for each other and to understand that their mission is only lived out when God is first in their lives.



In making masks, youth learned how they are shaped by God

A Mother's Calling

Motherhood is mysterious, magical and miraculous

BY COMMISSIONER MARILYN D. FRANCIS

On May 9 we take time to celebrate our mothers and acknowledge the important role they've played in our upbringing. But Mother's Day also offers every mother the opportunity to reflect on the blessings of having been entrusted with the care of her child. Just like Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, we should take time to ponder these things in the heart.

Being a mother is a gift. Whether the baby is born to the woman or adopted, the child is forever connected to the mother. She waits for the moment she holds that brand new life in her arms for the first time. At that miracle moment, a magical bond makes them inseparable. There will never be another day when she doesn't think about her child. The baby becomes enmeshed in the fibre of the mother's being. From then on, the mother's heart carries the passion, hunger and drive to protect her child at all costs, even at risk of her own life.

I pray for my children without ceasing. They are in my thoughts moment by moment. Where they are, what they are doing, what they are thinking about, how their work is progressing ... whatever they are experiencing in life is always on my mind. Now that is mysterious, miraculous and magical!

As any mom can tell you, watching over a child is an all-consuming job. A mother has the constant urge to guard her lamb no matter the age. And while she can rebuke or instruct at any moment, she allows no one else to speak

ill toward or about her child. Her care extends to all, and she becomes a mother to all the children with whom she comes in contact. Every child matters to the heart of the Christian mom. Mothering, after all, is a God thing.

God has the character of both mother and father. He nurtures and cares as a mother would. His love is gentle and protects as no other. I have often reflected on the "mothering" that fathers do in situations where they are responsible for the care of a

silk that are hers. She feeds, trains, orders the day and guides with hands of love. This creates such beautiful artwork and her child becomes a tapestry for the world to enjoy.

Mothers are chefs. In the kitchen, a mother produces nourishment for the body, mind and spirit of everyone in her home. It has been said that "nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven." How true I have found this to be. A homemade apple pie, brownies or chocolate chip cookies make children

away, they are never far from our hearts and minds. Now that is mysterious, miraculous and magical!

Within every mother is the recognition of two-way growth. Adults learn from children. Even the Bible reminds us that "a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). That's why I stay as close to children as possible. If I can't be near the children that I raised and love, I will love the children that I am near at this time. There is a real sense within me that *every child is my responsibility*. Since coming to the Canada and Bermuda Territory, I identified this as my mandate and have given myself the additional title as Ambassador for Youth, Music and Hockey. How I praise the Lord for parents who share their little ones with me.

Yes, Mother's Day is special. It is a time to reflect on our blessed mothers who raised us. I think back to my own mother who led me to Jesus. Susan Marie Young Burrows was the most beautiful saint that I could ever dream to be. She was the role model for motherhood. She was mysterious, miraculous and magical!

May this day be a reminder to be a mothering influence in the life of every child who comes near us. May God help us reach out in love to all children as if they were our own. When that occurs it is definitely mysterious, miraculous and magical! **\$**

Commissioner Marilyn D. Francis is the territorial president for women's ministries of the Canada and Bermuda Territory.



Commissioners Marilyn and William Francis with two of their grandchildren

child. Within all of us, this mothering instinct is there. When we are in Christ, God's own being is working in us and through us as we minister to our children. There is no rhyme or reason as to the "whys" of this nature, but it is definitely there. One cannot deny the woman or man who has a mother's heart. Now that is mysterious, miraculous and magical!

A mother is an artist who weaves together the strands of

smile, dry their tears and fill a home with sweet smells and attitudes.

Mothers are like taxi-cab drivers. Whether driving to hockey practices, dance classes, music lessons or school, mothers are running to and fro. However, this busyness is short-lived—ask any mom who longs for those days once their children are off to university or move into their own homes. But while children may grow up and move

Olympic Dreams

Salvation Army mission teams share “More Than Gold” at Vancouver Games

BY SHARON TIDD



Cadets spent 10 days ministering at the Games

Amid the throngs of people outfitted in Canada's red and white, the honking car horns and impromptu renditions of *O Canada*, the Church, in rain or shine, quietly and graciously, served Vancouver and all of her guests during the 2010 Olympics.

Over 2,000 volunteers gave out more than 600,000 hot beverages at 22 different sites over 17 days. The blue and black jackets and refreshment backpacks associated with these acts of service became a part of the tapestry of the Games. Whenever I wore the jacket I was repeatedly stopped and asked, “You’ve been serving hot chocolate, haven’t you? You guys are awesome!”

This opportunity came, in large part, because of a simple act of kindness by The Salvation Army over 60 years ago. When the parents of Anna Dean immigrated to Canada from England, they were given a hot drink and a warm welcome by the Army at Pier 21 in Halifax. Anna became director of operations for Olympic Transportation for TransLink, the Greater Vancouver public

transportation system. When the question arose of what could be done for the people in Olympic lineups, Anna immediately thought of The Salvation Army.

God used those cups of kindness to create life-changing conversations. Many people came to faith in Christ. Addicts found their way into treatment. The grieving received comfort. Lost visitors found helpful directions. Strangers became friends. Neighbourhoods that had been “closed” to the gospel became receptive. The thank-yous were unending. City officials and security personnel affirmed that our presence helped maintain a sense of calm in the midst of boisterous celebrations. TransLink riders were thrilled with this unique “extra.” Even the premier of British Columbia praised our service.

In addition, we gave out 10,000 welcome bags to visitors and 3,000 care kits, each with a hand-knit scarf, to homeless populations. Hundreds of thousands of pieces of Christian literature, including the Olympic issue of *Faith & Friends*, were distributed.



The Salvation Army provides hot chocolate for those heading to Olympic events

Free Christian arts events featured over 400 Canadian and international performers. Many churches and Salvation Army centres hosted large-screen TV viewing parties. The Army gave away a unique OTHERS 2010 pin as well as thousands of More Than Gold star-flake pins, which tell the gospel story. Mission teams and individual volunteers came from around the globe to serve. Many on our teams also spent hours engaging Olympic visitors in conversations about fighting sex trafficking.

Our outreach wasn't limited to the Olympics or the Vancouver area. Churches across Canada had been actively engaged in torch relay activities and Olympics outreach since October 2009. And the service continued at the Paralympic Games in March.

In February, the world came to Canada and we were able to share the love of Christ. For 17 days the Church was once again at the heart of Vancouver's community, and I believe God was smiling as hundreds of thousands of seeds of grace were planted and watered.

For more amazing stories visit www.saolympics.com.

Sharon Tidd is the Vancouver/Whistler 2010 Olympic Outreach Co-ordinator.

Hope of the Nations

BY CADET JOYCE WILSON

IT WAS WITH SOME TREPIDATION that I left the College for Officer Training in Winnipeg to participate in The Salvation Army's mission team at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. As my teammates and I waved our red Olympic-mitted hands goodbye to our friends and family, I felt a combination of excitement and what can only be described as an absence of hope. We were preparing to face the dark side of the Olympics. Behind the lights, the buzz and the activity, social injustices were occurring.

As we toured the downtown eastside of Vancouver, I was overwhelmed by the pain and suffering of addicts and homeless people who crowded the sidewalks. Human trafficking, the sex trade and all manners of crime were quietly continuing in the shadows of derelict buildings and back alleys. This hopelessness

was especially pronounced when contrasted against the nation's Olympic fever and optimism. Though The Salvation Army has a strong presence in the downtown eastside, the need is still great. Thankfully, my eyes and ears were opened to the goodness around me, to the joy people were experiencing in the Lord.

One woman I met introduced herself as "Mama," because she looks after everyone who crosses her path. Suffering from mental and physical challenges as a result of ongoing drug addictions, Mama felt safe in the Salvation Army facility. And though I couldn't understand everything she said to me, she communicated Christ's love through her affection for and acceptance of others. As she cheerfully dragged me into a room full of women where someone was performing a creative dance to Chris Tomlin's rendition of *Amazing Grace*, I was moved to tears. While I quietly wept, Mama hugged me and sang along to the words, "My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Saviour, has ransomed me."

Later, as I stood on a street corner serving the 700 sandwiches we'd prepared, a homeless woman told me her story. Her husband had been missing for four days, ever since the last time he beat her up. Without anger or bitterness, she described how mean he would get when he sniffed glue. She was worried about him and wanted me to pray. Following a prayer, she grabbed my arm and told me I wasn't done praying yet, that I needed to keep praying that God would protect him and bring him back to her. Against all logic or good reason, this dear woman hoped that her husband would be saved from his addiction and had faith that God would bring him back to her.

Starting at 4:30 a.m., our team served hot chocolate and coffee at a major transit site where coach buses were taking spectators up the mountain for events. Over the course of the week, we developed a rapport with Olympic employees and volunteers. Imagine my surprise when a manager called us over and asked us to sing *Onward Christian Soldiers* over the walkie-talkie system. God confirmed in that moment that, whether serving refreshments or riding on the sky train with the Army's logo prominently worn on our jackets, he was providing countless opportunities for us to witness.

My 10 days in Vancouver ended on a high note when I met Stan, a joyful, committed Salvationist. Stan described how God had changed his life thanks to Salvationists and Army programs. Following his conversion, for days he cried out to God, "Don't leave me!" Previously anything good in his life that he'd loved or



Kids have fun at Olympic outreach events

cared for had abandoned him. But Christ was clearly still with Stan and God's love was overflowing in him.

Though I had arrived in Vancouver feeling hopeless, I left full of hope. I saw the Holy Spirit at work. I became aware that the only way for us as Salvationists to "give hope today" is to find it ourselves first in Christ. I was encouraged to see The Salvation Army being used in a mighty way. Though Christ is the hope of the nations, we remain his "hands and feet" in a needy world.

Golden Moments

BY CADET DAVID BOND


WHO WOULDN'T JUMP at the chance to leave Winnipeg during the February blahs and head to Vancouver to enjoy some plus temperatures? Not to mention the unique opportunity for our CFOT mission team to be part of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games!

There were several experiences in Vancouver that impacted me, but there is one that clearly wins gold. A group of cadets travelled to the Harbour Light to spend the afternoon at one of its downtown shelters. I sat down beside a stranger who quickly became a fellow "proud Canadian" as we bonded while watching

a snowboarding event on TV.

As it turns out, this man went to high school just a few blocks from where I lived in Toronto. He was involved in sports and had received a full scholarship to play college football in New Mexico. What seemed then to be his ticket to fame and fortune resulted in just the opposite. He found himself trapped by the very things that he thought would make him happy. His so-called glamorous life was destroying him.

So he chose to leave it all behind—though the new addictions he'd picked up were harder to shake. Without money and security, he slept on the streets and made his way to Vancouver. Late one evening, as he prepared for another night on the sidewalk, a door opened in front of him. Someone walked out and asked if he needed a place to stay. He had inadvertently stopped right in front of an Army shelter, where he is still living today. This man believes it was the hand of God that guided him to the Army.

To my surprise, I discovered he'd only arrived at the shelter three weeks earlier and had not shared his past with anyone else. I felt humbled to hear his story and proud that the Army was helping him regain his footing. He now has a place to sleep, a community where he can belong and the support to help him change his life. What an awesome privilege is ours to encourage him and speak words of hope into his life. 



Salvationist Nancy Turley at a torch relay event in Bracebridge, Ont.



A volunteer spreads awareness about the Army's anti-sex trafficking campaign in Vancouver



Cadets gather outside The Haven, a Salvation Army emergency shelter in Vancouver



Ontario Great Lakes Division

From kids' camps to cooking programs to family shelters, Salvation Army ministries bring dignity and hope to thousands of Ontario residents



Lt-Cols Lee and Debbie Graves

From the DC's Desk

Greetings from the Ontario Great Lakes Division! The boundaries of this vast division stretch from the world-famous waterfalls in Niagara to the fabled Sleeping Giant of Thunder Bay, from the Ambassador Bridge that spans the Canada-U.S. border in Windsor to the historic gold mines of Timmins and beyond.

At the heart of the Ontario Great Lakes Division is the city of London, the birthplace of The Salvation Army in Canada. Here, in May 1882, Jack Addie and Joe Ludgate commenced a transformative work. Through God's faithfulness and the efforts of countless dedicated soldiers and friends, the Army has remained true to its God-given mission.

The Army's vibrant community-based programs continue to transform lives. And we are continually reshaping and refocusing our ministry to serve this

FAST FACTS:

- The Ontario Great Lakes Division covers the Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Niagara and Windsor areas as well as much of Northern Ontario. It has 47 corps and 31 social services centres
- There are 117 Salvation Army officers, four auxiliary-captains, three lay pastors, 2,300 employees, 1,308 volunteers and 223 retired officers in the division
- Salvation Army corps (church) membership: 3,308 senior soldiers, 2,967 adherents and 438 junior soldiers
- The division has six advisory boards, 52 community and family services centres, 10 correctional and justice services offices and 10 emergency response vehicles
- 1,148 adults have successfully completed the Change is a Choice substance use program in the past five years
- London Village houses a state-of-the-art daycare centre for children and

offers respite care to individuals with special needs. Through a partnership with the Alzheimer Society, the Village also provides free caregiver support groups to family and friends of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease

- In 2008, at London Centre of Hope, 8,650 people were helped with food, household items and assistance with rent and utilities. In 2009, 5,625 households were given Christmas hampers. The shelter at the Centre of Hope has a 285-bed capacity
- Wycliffe Booth House in London is a residential open custody program for male youth. Chaplaincy services are an important component
- Bethesda Centre in London provides support and education, in a residential setting, to pregnant teens up to 17 years of age, offering high-school credits, life-skills training, individual program planning and pre/postnatal care

present age. As we love God and others through our service, may the outcome of passionate ministry be realized: "... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

—Lt-Colonel Lee Graves
Divisional Commander

Open Hearts of Acceptance

Cape Croker is an Aboriginal community located in a scenic, yet isolated, area on the shores of the Bruce Peninsula. The Chippewas of Nawash First Nation live in this community and many face challenges of unemployment, poor health, poverty and addictions.

Captain Mary Millar of The Salvation Army's Wiarton Community Church has

been connecting with Cape Croker since 1994 through the food bank ministry. In 2008, Wiarton received funding for Aboriginal ministry and Pastor Tony Chegahno was hired to reach out to people living in Cape Croker. He, his wife, and his adult children and their families live and minister in the community.

Cape Croker Life Ministries includes an adult Bible study, visitation and family supports such as emergency food distribution, housework and counselling. At a lively Bible club, kids from Grades 1 to 4 meet Wednesdays after school to learn New Testament stories. Girls from Grades 5 to 8 have their own club where they discuss healthy relationships, growing in the Lord, knowing who they are and



Team Effort: Pastor Tony Chegahno and his family minister in Cape Croker



Building Esteem: Kids have a blast at Bible club in Cape Croker

learning to embrace their capabilities. Future plans include a young men's ministry with sports, fishing, nature outings and life skills.

"The young Aboriginal people are gifted and talented. However, as with many other youth, they can suffer from deep scars due to lack of acceptance and not being able to embrace their identities," explains Captain Millar. "That's why the Army's main emphasis is on the kids.

"In the past there has been resentment and lack of trust in the community at Cape Croker. However, the Lord is in the reconciliation business, and we see him bringing healing and respect." Last

year, a group of young Salvationists from an Army camping ministry ran a Blast Camp for 39 children. It was a great time of connecting, and the kids were thrilled that another mission team returned during March break.

Ministry in Cape Croker is built on patience, gentleness and respect. Generations of Aboriginal people have had their culture and confidence shaken by the Church. Now is the time for a more humble, respectful approach. "Aboriginal people have so much to offer," concludes Captain Millar. "Our nation is richer because of them. We are excited about what God has in store."

At the Centre of Hope is Community

London Centre of Hope is a multifaceted ministry that, since 2005, has been reaching out to the community through a family health program, a withdrawal management centre, child and family services and a 285-bed hostel.

Although the centre is large, staff members bring a community feel. Clients are involved in decision-making and all residents are invited to monthly consultation meetings on everything from the cafeteria menu to policy and procedures. Being involved in decision-making gives people a sense of ownership, and being treated with dignity and respect makes them feel like the centre is their home.

"People who live at the Centre of Hope put their names on their doors, saying 'I live here,'" notes Major Neil Lewis, executive director. "They don't feel ashamed. The government wants to move people in and out of our centres as quickly as possible, but people need community. We create a home for our residents."

Some who live at the Centre of Hope have never experienced a true sense of home or family, and so they get excited about activities such as movie night or building gingerbread houses at Christmas. Although most hostels are segregated, the Centre of Hope combines shelter services for men, women and youth. Although there are strict rules about separate floors for sleeping, everyone interacts during the day in this "little city." Sixty percent of the guests at the Centre of Hope have mental health issues and have been suffering



Dressed for Success: Staff and clients attend a "Putting on the Ritz" party for the London Centre of Hope's fifth anniversary



Musical Witness: London Centre of Hope holds an outdoor community chapel



Culinary Delights: Cooking at the kitchen program at Kirkland Lake



Safe and Sound: Lt Claude Dagenais helped William Jones find shelter in Kirkland Lake

psychologically and socially for a long time. Being included in a community with loving relationships is invaluable to their healing.

Soulfood is a men's group where chaplains and clients cook, eat and share in a Bible study together. Two of the group's newest members, "Mark" and "Tim," met Dan White, Centre of Hope chaplain, because of a fight they were having four months ago. After the argument, White met with the men individually to talk about their concerns, but also about their lives and their hopes. Since then, both men have made decisions for Christ and turned their lives around.

"God showed me that Mark, the younger one, really needed a father figure

in his life," notes White. "Mark's father had passed away and I talked to him about how God is our Father." Mark and Tim get along now, and are part of a healthy fellowship of brothers in Christ.

Setting standards of love and community are working for the Centre of Hope. They recently received 97.6 on their accreditation, an in-depth review of their program. It was the highest score of any ministry unit in the Canada and Bermuda Territory.

They also opened a "high tolerance" drop-in centre for 30-70 people who are not accepted at other city shelters because they do not abide by the rules. Some have severe anti-social behaviour related to drugs or mental health issues.

"These people were truly outcasts," says Major Lewis. "Instead of asking them to change in order to fit in, we asked ourselves how we could change to include them. Love is transforming these people."

Coming In From the Outside

Kirkland Lake is a rural, northern mining town where the people have big hearts and always want to help each other. "People wave at us when they see the Salvation Army shield on our vehicle and the whole community helps us whenever we make a request," says Lieutenant Anne-Marie Dagenais, corps officer.

Recently a father came into the food bank with non-perishable food items. Instead of gifts, his daughter had requested these items from her friends for her 10th birthday party.

Last October, a man walked into the Army centre and reported that someone had been living in the forest for three weeks. "He asked us to go visit the man in the woods, so we went, and brought coffee and soup," explains Lieutenant Anne-Marie Dagenais. They discovered an elderly man named William Jones. "We convinced him that it was time for him to find a better place to live."

The Army helped the man with clothing, food and regular visitation when he was admitted to the hospital. "He didn't realize he could apply for the Canada Pension Plan at age 65, and so when he could no longer pay the rent, he moved to the woods," explains Lieutenant Claude Dagenais, corps officer. He is now doing well; his health is gradually improving and he is on a list for a room at the Teck Pioneer Residence, a long-term care home.

Kirkland Lake has a busy food bank, and Lieutenants Dagenais speak their mother tongue when serving French-

speaking clients. Being served in their own language gives many people the opportunity to open up about spiritual and emotional issues.

A kitchen program is starting soon, and will include cooking classes, budgeting and safe food handling. Each person who attends will be able to cook once a month and return home with soup, two meals and dessert for their family. The kitchen program is a great opportunity for people of different cultures to share recipes and friendship. Some of the Aboriginal women living in the community expressed their discomfort with receiving a bag of groceries as a hand out. The principle of exchange is important to them, so they are looking forward to a program where they can contribute their cooking skills.

Lieutenants Dagenais are also responsible for The Salvation Army in Timmins, a two-hour drive away. "At our Christmas toy drive in Kirkland Lake and Timmins, we let parents come and pick out toys for their kids," says Lieutenant Claude Dagenais. "We thought it would be more meaningful for them to be able to say to their child: 'I chose that for you.' People appreciated that act of dignity."

In Timmins, a volunteer named Anna took leadership and opened the Sally Anna café. Every day of the week, she provides coffee, soup and a listening ear. People feel comfortable with Anna and the café gives them reprieve from the cold streets.

"I sometimes imagine William Booth roaming the streets of Timmins and inviting people to the Sally Anna café," says Lieutenant Claude Dagenais. "It makes me proud to be an officer."

Celebrating Abilities

Lawson Ministries in Hamilton supports people with developmental, physical and cognitive disabilities as well as mental health issues. Thirty-three adult tenants live in Lawson Ministries' supported-independent-living condominium and well over 100 attend day-programming opportunities.

At age 77, Morley is the oldest resident of Lawson Ministries. Morley lived in an institution for 69 years before moving to The Salvation Army. When he was about to move in, staff were told that he couldn't speak, walk or feed himself, but within weeks of care in one of the apartments, he started to shuffle to get into his armchair.

Now he feeds himself and regularly goes to hockey games and swims. Love and dignity have given Morley a new lease

on life.

Lawson Ministries runs a Salvation Army thrift store in Caledonia that hires people with disabilities. "The customers love the fact that the store provides them with quality shopping experiences and generates meaningful work and competitive wages for the employees," explains Deanna Finch-Smith, executive director. "Employment training is a big component of Lawson Ministries and many residents utilize the centre to access job training and to enjoy social and leisure activities. Some Lawson residents work at the Freeway café and church in Hamilton, serving coffee. They love going to the Freeway because




New Lease on Life: Morley with his friends at Lawson Ministries in Hamilton

it is casual, wheelchair accessible and friendly."

Lawson Ministries' new Autism Centre is expected to be completed this summer. "There is a great need for this kind of service in our community," explains Finch-Smith. "Autistic youth are allowed to go to school until they are 21, but after that there is often no place for them to go. Some families have to quit their jobs because they know their kids will not be safe on their own. They cannot afford a one-on-one worker."

Consultations have taken place to ensure that the structure of the building is appropriate for the clientele. In addition to being wheelchair accessible, thought has gone into everything from the colour of the walls to the shape of the rooms to the feel of the carpet. The Salvation Army wants to provide a space that feels comfortable and safe for autistic clients. There will be a music room, an educational room, a gymnasium and a "Snoezelen" room (a therapeutic room with waterfalls, a waterbed and a variety of sensory lights).

Programs will be suited to clients' interests, passions and skills. That might include learning how to read through the DARE program (Determined Adults Reading and Education), doing horticulture in the rooftop garden or training for employment.

"My wish would be for anyone with a disability to be included in society and given respect and compassion," concludes Finch-Smith. Her wish is coming true at Lawson Ministries. 



One Happy Family: Staff and clients of Lawson Ministries in Hamilton

Bilingual Blessings

The small francophone corps in Bathurst, N.B., is thriving in both official languages, thanks to friendship evangelism

BY KEN RAMSTEAD, EDITOR, FAITH & FRIENDS AND FOI & VIE



Friends of Captain Miguel and Major Florence Borgela couldn't understand why the officer couple were chauffeuring so many people to and from their corps in Bathurst, N.B. "Couldn't these folks take public transit?" the Borgelas were often asked.

"There *are* no buses in Bathurst," Captain Miguel Borgela replies. "Bathurst does not have a public transportation system. It's just too small!"

Five-Minute Prayer

Captain Miguel Borgela immigrated to Canada from his native Haiti in 1981 and became a member of The Salvation Army shortly after his arrival in Montreal. He met Major Florence Borgela, who was born in Newfoundland and Labrador, at a retreat in Montreal, and they were married in 1997.

The Borgelas ministered together at a corps in Montreal for nine years before they were transferred to Bathurst.

While the Borgelas looked forward to the impending move, they were apprehensive of the Bathurst church's small size. "I always say that when the Army sends me somewhere, it's God doing the transferring," believes Captain Miguel Borgela.

"Our corps did have one advantage," he smiles. "In Montreal, I wasn't able to pray for each person individually, but once I got to Bathurst, I could pray for everyone in the pews in five minutes flat!"



Top photo: A corps barbecue event; above: Mjr Florence Borgela and Cpt Miguel Borgela with soldiers Charlene Losier and Laura Simone

God in Two Official Languages

Since their arrival, the congregation has doubled in size to 30 members. "God can work miracles," says Captain Miguel Borgela.

One of the challenges the couple faced was the difficulty of acquiring suitable religious material for the overwhelmingly French congregation. "Fortunately, we have *Foi & Vie* (the French version of *Faith & Friends*), which is perfect both for our outreach efforts and for our church members," says Major Florence Borgela, who also manages the thrift store. "They just fly off the shelf."

While the church services have been conducted in French, a few members have

been attracted to The Salvation Army despite only speaking English. "We consider it a miracle that even though the family didn't understand what was being said that first Sunday," says Captain Miguel Borgela, "they returned the next week and the week after that, and have now become regular members."

As a result, the corps has added a number of English hymns and obtained English religious literature and Bibles.

The Borgelas plan to add an English service in the future, as well as a simultaneous translation system, such as they had in Montreal. For the moment, the small number of English-speaking members prohibits that.

Besides church services and the thrift store, the Borgelas conduct home league meetings, youth services and Bible studies.

"It's a lot of work but we wouldn't want to be anywhere else," says Major Florence Borgela. "We're thriving here, and in both languages."

One Hundred and Counting

The Borgelas have had remarkable success in attracting new members through word of mouth and their outreach efforts.

Many have come to God by way of their Tuesday morning coffee sessions. "Coffee is a great way to evangelize," laughs Captain Miguel Borgela. "Over a dozen people drop by every Tuesday morning for coffee and fellowship, and many of them have become part of the congregation."

The corps also organizes bowling events for the community's children and teenagers, and hosts barbecues at the community centre every two months. "We had to submit an application to the civil servant who was in charge of the centre," explains Captain Miguel Borgela. "She attended the function and decided to try out our church service the following Sunday, purely out of curiosity. Not only did she start attending on a regular basis but she is now an adherent."

"We call all this *évangile d'amitié*—friendship evangelism."

Captain Miguel Borgela sees nothing but growth in the corps' future. "In five years, we want to see the church have at least 100 members," he states. "I pray for it and I know it's possible. My second dream is to eventually send some of our soldiers to training college. I know we can do that, too."

There is one last item on the Borgelas wish list, however.

"We also pray for buses." ☞

When Tragedy Strikes

Is suffering an act of God's judgment?

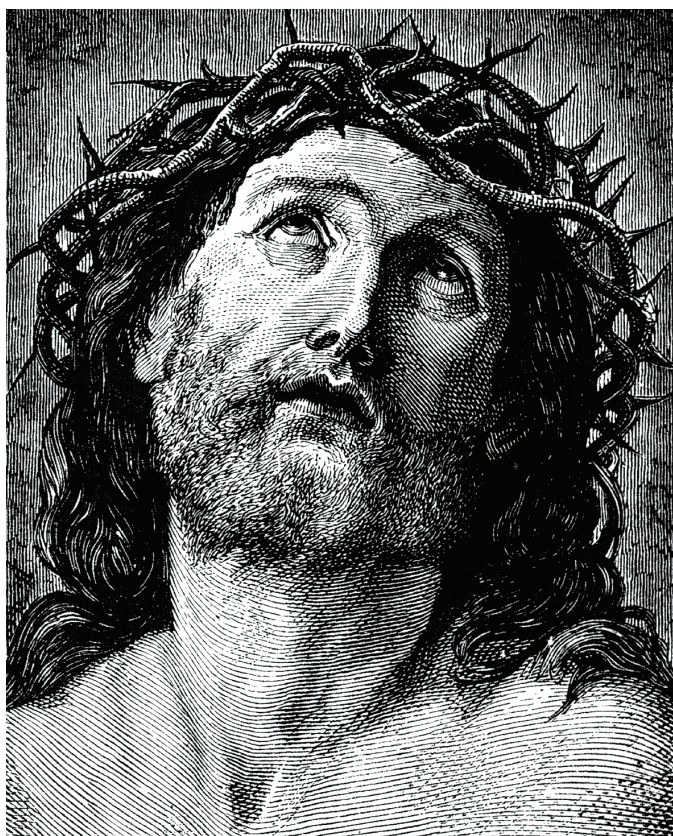
BY MAJOR RAY HARRIS

We have a deep desire to make sense of tragedy and suffering. Parents seek some glimpse of meaning when a son is killed in an automobile accident. Fallen soldiers are repatriated with rituals that convey significance. The world tries to make meaning of an earthquake that devastates the nation of Haiti and its capital city, Port-au-Prince. The instinct to interpret tragedy is strong. However, our attempts to find meaning seldom do justice to the suffering that has taken place. Even Jesus recognized this.

On one occasion a report was brought to Jesus about Pilate's slaughter of Galileans in the Jerusalem temple (see Luke 13:1-9 NRSV). Those who communicated the report to Jesus wanted to make sense of this atrocity. Could it be that this tragedy was the result of the sufferers' own sinfulness? Was their suffering an act of God's judgment?

Instead of responding directly, Jesus posed questions to them: "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ... Or those 18 who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" Then he answered his own questions: "No." Jesus jarred their assumptions by refusing to draw a straight line between suffering and sinfulness.

Sometimes human suffering is the result of sinfulness; the deceitfulness of some investment firms, for example, has contributed to the suffering of their clients. But Scripture permits no clear connection between those who suffer and *their* sinfulness. In John's Gospel, for instance, Jesus refused to lay the responsibility for a man's blindness either at his or his parents' doorsteps (John 9:1-12). The Bible does not allow us to connect tragedy directly



Ecce Homo, Guido Reni, 1620. "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases"

to our sinfulness.

The Church has often struggled to understand how God is related to suffering. There have been times when the Church has attempted to inoculate God from suffering in such a way as to make him irrelevant, if not inexcusable. But as he contemplated the sufferings of Jews in Nazi Germany, Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote from his prison cell that "only the suffering God can help." It is the Christian conviction that in the life of Jesus we see more clearly the character of God who walks "the road marked by suffering."

Through the life of Jesus we glimpse a God who *touches* the leper when healing him (Luke 5:12-16), and who *straightens* not just a woman's back but an understanding of the Sabbath that also was bent (Luke 13:10-17). Matthew's Gospel summarizes the healing ministry of Jesus by drawing on the text of Isaiah: "He took our

infirmities and bore our diseases" (Matthew 8:17 NRSV).

These actions of Jesus find their climax in the cross where, in the Apostle Paul's words, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19 KJV). Christians understand God to be One who is not detached from suffering, but who fully engages it. Thus we seek not so much to explain suffering as to engage it in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Instead of trying to make meaning out of these tragedies, Jesus instructed his questioners to "repent," to turn their lives around 180 degrees so that they bear fruit "worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8 NRSV). This is where we can make meaning, not so much in comprehending tragedy but by engaging its suffering in the name of Christ. By the grace of God we can turn our lives around so that our character and actions begin to reflect

those of Christ.

Majors Geoff and Sandra Ryan served as officers in Russia for nine years. At one point Geoff spent time in war-torn Chechnya and came face-to-face with incredible suffering. His response to horrific pain was to conclude: "The question is not to ask 'why?' but rather, 'what now?' There is no point on speculating why [evil] exists and why God allows it. Far better to acknowledge the facts before one and deal with them" (*Sowing Dragons: Essays in Neo-Salvationism*).

The instinct to interpret suffering is strong. There are times, however, when attempts to make sense of suffering only add to it. What we can do is to respond in the name of Christ to those who suffer. This, too, is an act of interpretation. **S**

Major Ray Harris is a retired Salvation Army officer. He enjoys watching Corner Gas reruns and running in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park.

In Community, Serving Community

Through its group ministry, Southlands is helping people experience authentic Christian fellowship

BY JOHN McALISTER, SENIOR EDITOR



Southlands' community groups provide opportunities for fellowship and discipleship

When you enter the doors of Southlands Community Church in Winnipeg, you feel like you've come to a familiar place. Whether it's the greeters at the main entrance who welcome you with a smile, the refreshment tables with freshly brewed coffee in the lobby or the sincere invitations to join in on the many conversations happening throughout the building, it's clear that Southlands understands the value of Christian fellowship.

"People need fellowship," says Captain Justin Bradbury, corps officer. "They yearn for it. I think this is the most important aspect of our church's focus. My wife, Angela, and I try to personally welcome every newcomer that visits. There are even first-time visitor parking spaces reserved right in front of the church doors. We like to say that Southlands is large enough to celebrate, but small enough to care."

Community Connection

Southlands is situated in Winnipeg's south

end, an area that has experienced a building boom in the past 10 years. It's a growing multicultural community, with many residents hailing from mainland China and South Asia. Muslims comprise a significant percentage of the population, but there are also many Hindus and Buddhists. But beyond any ethnic or religious distinctions, the community is predominately populated by families with young children.

"Southlands is a particular mission field," says Captain Bradbury. "We are positioned to reach a lot of international people. This whole area consists of new housing, so it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with newcomers and established Canadians."

While many churches struggle to be representative of their communities, Southlands has attracted many of the area's new residents. "We have 17 nationalities represented at our church," says Captain Bradbury, which is clearly displayed through the rows of international flags hanging from the ceiling of the sanctuary.

"I'd estimate that more than 75 percent of our congregation resides in our community. We have also welcomed many people who were 'de-churched' for years. We are reconnecting people back to faith."

Each year the church organizes several outreach events, such as the Chinese New Year, fall carnival and a marriage conference. They advertise these heavily in the community, and encourage members of the congregation to invite their friends and neighbours.

This past winter, the church built a skating rink on its property, which was a useful tool for Olympic outreach events and mingling with neighbourhood youth. In the summer, they will repeat their successful KidsQuest day camp and mid-week family barbecues.

Worshipping Together

On Sunday mornings, the congregation gathers together in the church sanctuary for corporate worship and a teaching session from Captain Bradbury. The church has two worship teams, both of which are led by Darren Sedor, worship pastor.

"When I became Southlands' worship pastor, my focus was to establish a healthy and functional worship ministry," says Sedor. "When we receive the preaching schedule, I look at each theme and pray about it. I ask God, 'How can the worship teams reinforce what is going to be said?' After prayer, I go about selecting the songs best suited to complement the service."

The teaching sessions seek to be relevant to the real-life challenges faced by the congregation. Through personal conversations and feedback received through his leadership team, Captain Bradbury is intentional about addressing topics that will offer his people the healing and inspiration they need. And he does so in a way that fosters openness and honest reflection.

"Captain Bradbury is vulnerable with his challenges," says Harold Park, lay pastor and director of counselling. "When his brother, Jon, passed away, it hit him hard. He's publicly shared how it's been difficult dealing with that. It's sent the message that we all face challenges and that we need to be real with our feelings. We want an open and authentic church. And he's leading by example."

Vulnerability doesn't come easily. Most people resist exposing their weaknesses, struggles or failures, preferring instead to pretend that they've got everything together. At Southlands, the church strives

to be a safe place where people can pour out their hearts. It is an authentic model of church where people support one another and build each other up.

"We've worked hard to cultivate this," says Captain Bradbury. "Early on, we had to decide, 'What are we going to be about? What kind of church do we want to be?' The credit goes to our people who from the start wanted to create a church environment that is real, where people don't have to pretend they're someone that they're not."

Community Group Emphasis

While Sunday worship provides one avenue for spiritual formation, the primary emphasis at Southlands is on their community group ministry.

"At many churches, people attend on Sundays, listen to the sermon and then that's all they do in terms of their growth as Christians," says Park. "What we've realized is that community groups offer people an opportunity for another discipleship process. We are making Christlike disciples—that's our main purpose."

The community groups offer people an environment where they can find support and love. As they grow together in faith on a weekly basis, the relationships develop to a deeper level so that they become accountable to one another. While other traditional church programs may not keep people connected, the community groups help people stick around.

"People are growing in their faith," continues Park. "They receive mutual encouragement as they deal with issues and questions they have about life."

The shift to community groups happened in the fall of 2009, when the church embarked on its 40 Days of Community campaign, based on the Saddleback Community Church program. Embracing the theme of In Community, Serving Community, every member of the church was challenged to join a community group. There are now 16 community groups in operation, which complement the church's other discipleship programs, such as its Discovery Class for new Christians, the teen youth group, the Experiencing God Bible study and moms and tots' group.

The community groups are hosted in various homes, where people gather together to share refreshments and connect with each other. Then, after a main teaching session, the men and women separate to explore the discussion questions and also share their joys and struggles from the week. During a recent week, the groups



Top: Cpt Angela Bradbury, Harold Park and Cpt Justin Bradbury; bottom: Yutian and Noraida at the Discovery Class

explored the importance of getting rid of guilt. Each person was challenged to make a moral inventory, where they looked at the areas of sin in their lives and were challenged to accept responsibility for their own faults. They were then encouraged to seek forgiveness with the knowledge that God forgives us instantly, freely and completely.

Outward Focus

But the community groups don't exist solely for the people in attendance. Every community group is required to do outreach projects of some kind.

"We want our community groups to stay open and multiply," says Captain Bradbury, "but we also want them to be the main avenue of outreach in our community."

One community group conducted a prayer walk in the community and left notes in 100 houses. Later in the week, a Muslim woman came to the church building and said, "Whoever came to my house this week to pray for us, I want to say thank you. I've never experienced Christian people doing that for us before."

"We want to help our congregation grow, so we want to increase the number of people that are in community and serving our community," says Park. "We are encouraging people to listen and interact so that we can try to meet the practical needs that are out there. We want this to be more organically driven, so that the people in our community groups not only focus on their own needs but also those of their neighbours."

Church Membership

For those interested in membership, Southlands offers a four-hour Partners Class, which provides an introduction to the church and to The Salvation Army. In this orientation, Captain Bradbury explains to people what soldiership and adherency are about and makes those options available to them.

"While our context isn't the inner-city or serving the economically poor, Southlands is true to the spirit of William and Catherine Booth," says Captain Bradbury. "Our priority is reaching people who aren't part of The Salvation Army and who aren't Christians. We've seen a high percentage of people make first-time commitments to Christ. We're trying to connect with a segment of the population who have written off the traditional church or Christianity, and we're seeing many of them reconnecting with the church, and most importantly to personal faith in Jesus."


"On the holiness side, we're working hard at cultivating healthy Christians, and I think healthier Christians become holier Christians. Our main goal is evangelism and discipleship. We can't be satisfied until every person has the opportunity to hear the gospel."

The church also connects with other Salvation Army programs in the city, such as the Multicultural Family Centre and correctional and justice services.

Future Vision

Perhaps the future of Southlands is found in their Discovery Class. Noraida is a young woman who recently moved to Winnipeg from the Philippines. Already a Christian before coming to Southlands, she has appreciated the opportunity to know people and feel welcome. "The church draws me nearer to God and helps me move deeper in my faith," she says.

Yutian came to Winnipeg from China a number of years ago, but has only recently started exploring Christianity. "I'm not a believer yet," she says. "I find it hard to believe in God, but I like the music and the community groups. I keep coming back because I am learning how to be a better person, and also the importance of mercy and being together."

As it continues to foster an environment of authentic Christian fellowship, Southlands will see its people grow deeper in their faith, mutually support one another and reach out. They are in community and serving community. 

Prayers for Our World

Religious leaders to send moral message to G8 and G20 political leaders



Since 2005, a World Religions Summit has met in conjunction with G8 meetings to offer a faith perspective to the leaders of the world's most powerful countries. This June, the G8 and G20 will be meeting in Canada.

The World Religions Summit, with international representatives from all of the world's major religions, is scheduled for June 21-23 at the University of Winnipeg. The Canadian delegation includes The

Salvation Army's Commissioner William W. Francis, who will be responding to politicians on behalf of the religious leaders.

The summit will also include the Anglican Church of Canada, the United Church of Canada, Eastern and Roman Catholic, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Jewish community, Muslim community, Baha'i Community of Canada, Hindu community, Buddhist community and Aboriginal communities.

In preparation for this summit, Salvationists are invited to support an online petition addressed to the political leaders of the G8 and G20 nations, which has been prepared by members of the global faith communities:

"We urge our government representatives to set aside short-term agendas and work together for a future that allows all citizens of this planet to thrive."

"At the G8 and G20 sum-


mits in 2010, we expect leaders to put first the needs and values of the majority of the world's population, of future generations and of Earth itself. From our shared values we call on leaders to take courageous and concrete actions to address poverty, care for our Earth, and invest in peace. We urge you to:

- *address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable while simultaneously making structural changes to close the growing gap between rich and poor;*

- prioritize long-term environmental sustainability and implement concrete plans to ensure global average temperatures do not exceed a 2° Centigrade increase from pre-industrial levels, while addressing the impact of climate change on the poor;
- invest in peace and remove factors that feed cycles of violent conflict and costly militarism; and
- commit to bold new efforts to put the Millennium

Development Goals back on track, in order to halve poverty by 2015.

"As people from religious and spiritual communities, we commit to doing our part to reduce poverty, protect the environment, and promote peace, both in our own communities and globally."

For the full Interfaith Partnership statement, and to sign the petition, visit www.faithchallenge8.com 

SALVATION ARMY STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The 2010 Interfaith Partnership has issued a call to the political leaders of the G8 nations to show inspired leadership and take bold, principled action in addressing global poverty, human degradation of the earth's environment and armed violence around the world. As the spiritual and administrative head of The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda, I fully support this call....

The Salvation Army is at work in all G8 countries and in another 112 as well. Together with other Christians and many people of other faiths, we believe that all human beings bear the image of God and thus are of incalculable value. But millions of people around the globe are not treated as our convictions say they should be treated.

Scandalous numbers are shackled by poverty or lack the education, health, political voice, spiritual vitality and other means necessary to flourish as human beings. Many find their inalienable human dignity completely disregarded when they are "trafficked" as if they were mere market goods. This is not right and it is not good enough. Joining our voices with the voice of the Founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth, we proclaim that we will "fight to the end" for the world's most vulnerable people.

The work that needs to be done today is not the responsibility of G8 leaders alone. It is not the work of religious leaders alone. It is not the work of NGOs and development agencies alone. It is not even the work of altruistic individuals alone. Effective, respectful, humane partnerships are essential. Seeking justice together is hard work and it requires good will, wisdom and the ability to compromise without being compromised.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join hands with fellow leaders of religious faith communities in a call for political leaders to take action needed at this critical moment in history. But also, and equally importantly, I commit myself and The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda to take action, too, effectively addressing the issues of human deprivation at home and in the less-wealthy world.

Commissioner William W. Francis,
Territorial Commander

Millennium Development Goals



Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- 1.4 billion people continue to live on \$1 a day
- The number of people living in absolute poverty is expected to increase to 100 million
- Conflict only adds to poverty with 42 million people displaced by conflict or persecution inside and outside of the borders of their countries



Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- While there has been some success to celebrate in terms of achieving this goal, there are still 38 million primary-school-age children in Africa unable to attend school
- In South Asia, the enrolment ratio climbed to 90 percent, yet 18 million are still not in school



Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Various factors make it more difficult for girls to consistently attend school, including drought, food shortages, armed conflict, poverty, lack of birth registration, child labour and HIV/AIDS



Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- A child born in a developing country is over 13 times more likely to die within the first five years than in an industrialized country
- The good news is that in 2006, the number of annual deaths of children under five dropped below 10 million
- The four leading causes of death are pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and measles



Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Skilled health-care workers could save the lives of more than 500,000 women a year who die during pregnancy, childbirth and the first six weeks following delivery



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- There is a growing need to support the increasing number of children orphaned by AIDS
- In 2006, there were an estimated 1.7 million deaths due to tuberculosis



Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- 2.8 billion people live with some form of water scarcity
- 2.5 billion people lack adequate sanitation



Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- One of the targets of this goal is to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications
- 18 percent and the world was connected to the Internet at the end of 2006, 2.7 billion were mobile phone subscribers

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United We Stand

Through the Army's circuit ministry, small-town corps can gain new momentum

BY MAJOR MAX STURGE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Throughout our history, The Salvation Army in Canada has ministered in rural communities. But with declining populations in many rural areas, increased financial costs to operate corps and fewer officers available, The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda has adapted to these challenges by amalgamating two or more corps into one, or, in some cases

implementing circuit ministries, where officers lead two or more corps. The overall objective is to avoid closures where possible by adopting a new ministry model that ensures ongoing viability and enables the continued presence of the Army in smaller communities.

Change can be difficult. While circuit ministry may signal continued life for a

corps, it brings challenges, such as the limited availability of a corps officer who is now shared among two or more communities. But for most corps, circuit ministry has enabled them to maintain the Army's mission. In this issue of *Salvationist*, we highlight three successful circuit ministries and one amalgamation from Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Willing to Change

IN NORTHEASTERN SASKATCHEWAN, the towns of Melfort, Tisdale and Nipawin have a combined population of nearly 15,000. Starting in 2006, representatives from the Saskatchewan Division (now part of the Prairie Division) met with the corps officers and Salvationists in the three towns to discuss the future viability of each corps.

"Recognizing the insurmountable financial challenges facing them, the concept of a circuit ministry offered the best potential for developing a vibrant ministry in the three communities," says Major Larry Martin, divisional commander in Saskatchewan at the time. Transitioning from five officers serving the three ministry units to one officer couple was not ideal, but the three corps concluded that a circuit was better than closure or amalgamation.

Majors Mike and Lee Anne Hoeft, corps officers, conduct services each Sunday in the three communities. "We have moved from dependence to

giving," says Major Mike Hoeft. "The biggest challenge will be moving from simply servicing those who remain to growing the congregations. Local leadership has been an issue, but people are now taking on responsibility for their own corps. If leaders are not developed, the corps may cease to exist."



Lorne Tyacke

"Of the three corps, Melfort has probably had to make the fewest adjustments," says Lorne Tyacke, who has

attended Melfort Corps for 20 years. "Our worship time on Sundays is still 11 a.m. We sold our church building and began using part of the thrift store for our worship times. That section is being renovated and will look even better than our present set-up. Facing change and the uncertainty about the future was hard for some of our members to accept initially, but things have settled down. One good feature is that we get together



While the schedule has changed, Tisdale's worship time has remained meaningful for Salvationists

with Tisdale occasionally for worship and lunch, and several times a year the three corps meet. We're getting to know other Salvationists and enjoy the fellowship. For the long term, we need to attract some younger families, otherwise we could eventually lose all three churches and end up with only the community and family services ministry."

"With a lot of our older Salvationists in Tisdale having been promoted to Glory in recent years and less than 20 people at worship on Sundays, something had to be done to keep the corps," says lifelong Salvationist Vera Dahl. "We appreciate how Major Mike Hoeft kept us informed during the change process. Some of us have been very active Salvationists and needed to feel that we could have some input into what was happening. The circuit ministry is working because we've been willing to change. With the three corps so far apart, some

of us wondered if the corps officers would be available as previously. Actually, that hasn't been an issue at all."

Dahl sees some benefits from the circuit ministry. "The finances have improved considerably," she notes. "Keeping the corps means that we can also continue the Army's important outreach ministries: the thrift store, food bank and Christmas hampers—all of which are appreciated by the community."

"We were happy with our corps officers and how the community was being served through them," says Shirley Moffat of Nipawin. "We were not excited about a circuit ministry, though things have worked out better than we thought. The biggest adjustment has been getting used to worshipping on Sunday night instead of in the morning and not having our corps officers living in our community. Fortunately, they are just a phone call away."

Keeping the Flag Flying



Marilyn Frampton



Annie Drodge

MONKSTOWN, N.L., HAS 28 Army families with an average of 21 people attending worship in the morning and 22 in the evening. Though it has always been small, the corps may hold the record for the number of officers it has sent into the ministry—20! There are no children in the community and most people are retirees. Captains Glenn and Jean Bridger, corps officers, serve both Monkstown and Little Heart's Ease, which are 115 kilometres apart. They spend seven consecutive days at each corps, usually traveling on a Tuesday. While they are doing Sunday morning and evening services in one corps, local officers and soldiers conduct the two services at the other corps.

Captains Bridger do a weeknight Bible study and home league in both corps and also men's fellowship at Monkstown.

"We have been blessed to have had two sets of officers, Aux-Captains Randy and Diane Kirby and now Captains Glenn and Jean Bridger, who have provided excellent leadership," says acting CSM Marilyn Frampton. "They've given 110 percent since the circuit started in 2006.


"Agreeing to lead worship, preach every other week and do the mid-week Bible study has enabled me to grow in my knowledge of the Scriptures," she says. "It encouraged us that our divisional headquar-

ters believed that we could handle the circuit set-up. As long as there are people living here and I have the strength, I'll do my best to keep the Army flag flying in Monkstown!"

Little Heart's Ease has 72 Army families and a Sunday morning average attendance of 19 and 27 in the evening. Corps Sergeant Major Annie Drodge has served nearly 27 years in various leadership positions. "I've got no problems with the circuit ministry," says Drodge. "Over the years when the officers were away, I was called on to lead the services and preach on Sundays. Because the officers are now away every second week, several soldiers and I take turns looking after the two services on Sundays. I enjoy the responsibility and have grown stronger as a result."

The corps is a vital presence in the community. "On Monday evenings," says Drodge, "nearly 30 children, including non-Army ones, participate in an open Sunday school that we call *www.com*, which stands for We Worship With Children on Mondays. About 55 children from the school come to our church for a service at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. People are returning here to retire. Some are building new homes and others are renovating older ones. I'm not worried about the future of the Army in Little Heart's Ease."

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A Small But Lively Crew

“GLENWOOD AND NORRIS ARM, N.L., are adjusting well to the new circuit ministry,” says Captain Ray Saunders, corps officer. “Both corps are small in numbers, but are committed. Serving these two Newfoundland communities, which puts my wife and me on the road for a 70-kilometre return trip three nights every week, is demanding. But we enjoy our two wonderful church families. We alternate services weekly from one corps to another: Sunday morning here in Norris Arm and Glenwood at night. The next week we switch. We do the same for programs such as Bible study, home league and children’s programs.”

“Having to share corps officers means that we now have only one service on Sundays,” says Maxine Payne, home league secretary in Norris Arm. “We didn’t like the idea at first,

but it was better than no service at all if the corps closed.”

Her husband, George, plays guitar for worship. “We’re a small, but lively crew,” he says. “Visitors are always surprised at how good the singing is, in spite of the small numbers. The home league is strong and the monthly couples’ group is lots of fun.”

Winston Wheaton, a town councilor in Glenwood, was attracted to the Army 11 years ago because of its reputation for helping people. “Originally, we didn’t think having officers in charge of two corps would work, but it has gone well,” he says. “A few months ago we had a combined Sunday evening service with Norris Arm as a fundraiser for Haiti. Both corps get along really well. We were sinking financially, but with both corps now sharing the costs for one officer couple, we have floated up to the top.”



George and Maxine Payne and Shirley Stuckless are loyal and hard-working leaders at the corps in Norris Arm



Winston Wheaton plays guitar for worship at Glenwood

Smooth Transition

WITH COMBINED POPULATIONS of 279, the communities of Fairbank and Too Good Arm, N.L., are a 25-minute drive apart. “Too Good Arm Salvationists were reluctant to close their church,” explains Captain Osborne Randell,



Mary Burt

corps officer. “It is challenging for people to travel three or four times a week to different corps activities in Fairbank, but they have adjusted well.”

Mary Burt was among the first soldiers to be enrolled at Fairbank. She was young people’s sergeant major for 26 years and assistant corps sergeant major for several years. “Our divisional commander at the time, Major Junior Hynes, told us that the lack of financial support would force the closure of the two corps,” says Burt. “We were relieved that merging both corps would solve the problem.”

With young people leaving home for post-secondary education or for employment elsewhere, and the corps being composed of mainly seniors,



Willie Gillard

both communities have married each other, “so we’re almost like a big family anyway,” says Gillard. He adds that both corps “had good corps officers who sat down with us and gave us time to talk about the situation.” He was concerned that they might lose some people, but is thrilled that not one family was lost.

Having to embrace circuit ministries and amalgamations can create tension and stress, but the process—when handled fairly and sensitively—births a new creation with fresh possibilities for God’s Kingdom and the Army. Financial concerns are stabilized locally and divisionally. Circuit ministry officers embrace a new way of doing things, and local leadership teams and individuals feel empowered for ministry. 

both congregations realized that their hope for the future lay in amalgamation.

Willie Gillard, corps sergeant major at Too Good Arm for 22 years, attributes the smooth transition to several factors. “For many years the corps in this area have had united services on Friday nights. That brings people together.” Also, people from

May 1

Focus on the Newfoundland and Labrador Division

- 1 Pray for the Atlantic Congress and Commissioning, congress leaders, attendance and the planning committee

May 2-8

Focus on the Editorial Department

- 2 Pray that God will raise up writers for our magazines who recognize God's calling to the ministry of the written word
- 3 Pray that the staff will be inspired and energized in working with the challenge of monthly deadlines
- 4 Pray for greater circulation of *Salvationist* and all of our publications as ministry units and individuals partner with the ministry of the editorial department
- 5 Pray for individuals and groups who regularly distribute our publications, especially those engaged in summer evangelism using *Faith & Friends*
- 6 Pray that our French magazine, *Foi & Vie*, will increasingly impact Quebec and other francophone areas of Canada
- 7 Pray that our website, *Salvationist.ca*, will inspire and build community as it provides up-to-date news from around the territory and the Army world
- 8 Pray that *Edge for Kids* will be effective in reaching and discipling children for Christ

May 9-15

Focus on our Partners in Mission: Hong Kong and Macau Command

- 9 Pray that more young people will respond to God's call to officership
- 10 Pray for the chaplaincy ministry by

officers and corps personnel in the Army's 33 schools and more than 80 social service units

- 11 Pray that Salvationists will have the courage to stand for Christ and obey God's will
- 12 Pray for outreach and the development of evangelical and social work in Macau
- 13 Pray that God will call mature Christians to work in the command's development projects
- 14 Pray that God will enable The Salvation Army to enhance its mission with adequate and sustainable resources in mainland China
- 15 Pray for the leaders of the command: Lt-Cols Samuel and Donni Pho and Mjr Priscilla Nanlabi

May 16-23

Focus on Pentecost

- 16 Pray for God's people to be transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit
- 17 Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control
- 18 Pray for the challenges your local church is facing, and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance for each situation
- 19 Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will be experienced through the compassionate service offered daily by the Army
- 20 Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict persons to abandon sinful habits and find forgiveness in Jesus Christ
- 21 Pray for God to give you the opportunity to share your faith (see Acts 2:1-13)

- 22 Pray for courage for officers and Christian leaders to consistently yield to God's will (see Acts 2:14-40)

May 23-29

Focus on Living the Vision: We envision cultural engagement

- 23 Prayerfully reflect on the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (see Matthew 28:18-20)
- 24 Pray for understanding and clarity of purpose for the Army's commitment to a "global Jesus" by moving beyond cultural boundaries
- 25 Pray that the Army's ministries in mixed cultures will be prepared spiritually and emotionally for integration
- 26 Pray for the ongoing prayer, teaching and training necessary to sustain these integrated ministries
- 27 Pray that we will follow the example of Jesus in becoming lovingly immersed in society
- 28 Pray that we will see the world through God's eyes, building relationships with people who are culturally different
- 29 Pray that "the God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:13)

May 30-31

Focus on Overseas Personnel

- 30 Pray for lay Salvationists and officers to offer themselves for international service
- 31 Pray that God will keep international personnel safe and healthy to undertake their ministries successfully

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ENROLMENT AND RECOGNITION



DILDO, N.L.—Seven junior soldiers are welcomed at Trinity Bay South. From left, Brandon Pilgrim, Timothy Pilgrim, Emily Pilgrim, Brianna Blake, Laura Drover, Destiny Reid and Cheyenne Reid. With them are Cpts Chris and Claudette Pilgrim, COs; and JSS Cora Smith



TRENTON, ONT.—Frances Grant, oldest soldier of the corps, cuts the anniversary cake with the help of Jasmine Manuel, junior soldier. Back row, from left, Col Ann Copple, then territorial secretary for women's ministries; Cpts Steve and Tina Manuel, COs; Ric Norlock, MP; and Col Donald Copple, then chief secretary



MUSGRAVETOWN, N.L.—Islandview Citadel celebrates four new junior soldiers. Front row, from left, Nathan Bladen, Shawna Holloway, Jessica Greening and Danielle Holloway. The junior soldiers who renewed their pledges are in the middle row. Back row, from left, Winnie Fisher, acting YPSM; Mjrs Rex and Catherine Paddock, COs; and Arlene Strong, acting JSS



SMITHS FALLS, ONT.—Three junior soldiers are enrolled and one junior soldier renews his covenant. From left, Zowie Scott; Mjr Sue Fuller, CO; Sydney Fuller; Mackenzie Harland; Alex-Zander Harland; Mjr Brian Fuller, CO; YPSM Symond Rombough



FREDERICTON—Following 10 years of service, family services worker, Lois McLean, receives her retirement certificate from Cpt Jennifer Reid, CO



FREDERICTON—On youth celebration Sunday, members of the CROSSzone and CROSstraining programs celebrate with their leaders after being presented with certificates by Mjr Wanda Vincent, divisional youth secretary



LETHBRIDGE, N.L.—Two local officers are commissioned. From left, Cpt David Rideout, CO; CSM Eugene Holloway; YPSM Michelle Holloway; Cpt Melanie Rideout, CO



ST. CATHARINES, ONT.—Hope Stevens is honoured with a plaque for 53 years of music ministry at St. Catharines. Sharing the occasion are Lt-Cols Lee and Debbie Graves, divisional leaders, and Mjr Kent and Cpt Dena Hepditch, COs

Photo Specifications for *Salvationist*

Photos submitted with tributes or news reports should be e-mailed as attachments to Salvationist@can.salvationarmy.org as digital images (the original files) with a resolution of 300 ppi. Please send photos as JPEG or TIFF attachments and avoid embedding them in a Microsoft Word or PowerPoint document. We cannot use digital photo printouts; however, we accept traditional prints reproduced from a negative.

Gifted Musician Serves the Lord

PENTICTON, B.C.—Following her initial contact with the social ministry of The Salvation Army, Dorian Poloway became an employee and now manages the reception area for the Army's family services in Penticton, B.C. After worshipping at the Army, Dorian also became a soldier. She is a soloist, a member of the women's trio and the choir. An accomplished guitar player, she also learned the tenor saxophone, plays in the corps band and assists with the musical needs of community care ministries. With her is Mjr Dianne Davis, CO



Olympic Torch at Golden West

WINNIPEG—An Olympic torchbearer in Manitoba visited The Salvation Army Golden West Centennial Lodge in Winnipeg. Several residents had their photo taken holding the torch, including Gordon Deacon, an 88-year-old Salvationist who lives at the lodge and attends Heritage Park Temple



A Four-Star Father

DILDO, N.L.—Charlie Reid proudly wears his four-star silver tie clip. He and his wife, Elma, are the parents of officers Mjrs Shirley Reid, Robert Reid, Janice Rowe and Cpt Bradley Reid. The original concept of the Silver Star was to recognize and link in fellowship mothers whose children were commissioned officers in The Salvation Army. The policy now includes fathers. To date, Reid is the only Salvationist father in the territory to receive four stars



Cub Scouts Man Kettles for Haiti

SASKATOON—Residents of Saskatoon rallied to aid the people of Haiti following the January earthquake. To raise funds quickly, a kettle campaign was organized for the first week of February. This special Week of Compassion for Haiti marked the first time in the city's history that Salvation Army kettles were set out other than at Christmas. The campaign was well received with more than 200 volunteers signing up for kettle shifts on short notice, including the 72nd Saskatoon North Cub Scouts. Volunteers raised \$30,448 in six days



GAZETTE

TERRITORIAL Appointments

Mjrs Shawn/Brenda Critch, divisional commander and divisional director of women's ministries and divisional community care ministries secretary, Bermuda Div; Mjrs Everett/Violet Barrow, divisional commander, Prairie Div, and divisional director of women's ministries and area commander, Manitoba, Prairie Div; Mjrs Junior/Verna Hynes, secretary for program services and assistant territorial secretary for women's ministries, THQ, with the rank of Lt-col; Mjrs Douglas/Elizabeth Lewis, property secretary and corps ministries secretary, THQ; Cpts Rodney/Paulette Bungay, executive director and assistant executive director, New Hope Community Centre, St. John's, N.L. Div; Cpt Valerie Lublink, chaplain, correctional and justice services, Kingston, Ont. CE Div

Retirements

Col Donald Copple, out of Flin Flon, Man. Last appointment: chief secretary, THQ; Col Ann Copple, out of Point St. Charles, Que. Last appointment: territorial secretary for women's ministries, THQ; Mjrs Gilles and Armande Ruel Gagné, out of Woodroffe Temple, Ottawa. Without appointment, Quebec Div

Births

Cpts Bramwell/Anita Pearce, son, Rowan Bramwell, Feb 7; Lts Robert/Hannah Jeffery, son, G. Scott, Feb 16

Promoted to Glory

Mjr Marguerite Belanger, from Montreal, Mar 1

CALENDAR

Commissioners William and Marilyn Francis May 1-6 International Doctrine Council, WCBC, Winnipeg*; May 8 Interfaith Dinner, World Religions Summit, Toronto; May 10-11 National

Prayer Breakfast and Dinner, Ottawa; May 13-14 National Advisory Board, Toronto; May 16-18 Alta. and Northern Ttys divisional review, Edmonton; May 18-20 Yellowknife, N.W.T., Alta. and Northern Ttys Div; May 21-27 General's Consultative Council, London, England*; May 28-31 Salvation Army Memorial Day reunion, Lakeside, OH, U.S.A.

*Commissioner William Francis only

Colonels Floyd and Tracey Tidd

May 1-2 Cedarbrae CC, Toronto, Ont. CE Div; May 9-12 Prairie divisional review; May 30 Empress of Ireland service, Toronto

General and Mrs. Bramwell H. Tillsley (Rtd)

May 1-2 Georgina CC, Ont. CE Div; May 15 Camp Long Point, N.Y., U.S.A.

Canadian Staff Band

May 1-2 Midland, Ont.; May 29 41st anniversary festival, Scarborough Citadel, Toronto

Investing in Young People



MISSISSAUGA, ONT.—Mississauga Temple Community Church recognizes Marilyn Dean for her contribution to their young people. Marilyn allocated the money donated in memory of her husband, Arthur Dean, for two purposes: to purchase five new cornets for the Mississauga YP Band and to assist underprivileged young people to attend music camps. From left, Christopher Allen; Tony Flanagan, colour sergeant; Alexandra Allen; Marilyn Dean; Hannah Jackson; BM Derrick Fishwick; Daniel Stickland; Cpt Steve White, divisional youth secretary; Cpt Erika White, divisional children's ministries secretary; and Austin Fishwick

New Salvationist Family



ORILLIA, ONT.—The vanDeursen family are first-generation Salvationists who came to the corps in Orillia in July 2009. They returned because somebody remembered the names of their four children. They are all currently involved in ministry, playing in the corps training band and participating in discipleship classes. The entire family volunteered during the Christmas campaign where over 400 families were helped with food and toys. Welcomed and supported by their leaders are Marilyn and Ron vanDeursen, senior soldiers, and their children Lorissa, Andrew, Kaitlyn and Nathaniel, junior soldiers

Breaking World Swimming Records



WINNIPEG—Jaring Timmerman's 101st birthday was celebrated in February by Winnipeg East Community Church. The oldest member of the congregation, Timmerman enjoys an active lifestyle, last year breaking several world swimming records in his age group. Four generations of Timmermans were on hand to mark the celebration

TRIBUTE

HEPWORTH, ONT.—**Erma Ruth Goodwin (nee Baker)** was born in New Liskard, Ont., in 1921. Married to husband, Cecil, for 62 years, Erma was a lifelong Salvationist. She entered the training college as a member of the Valiant Session in 1942. Before marriage, she served at divisional headquarters in Hamilton. In retirement at Lakeshore Community Church, she held several commissions. Erma delighted in her hobbies, flower garden and crafts. She spent the last six months with her daughter at Hepworth. Erma is survived by husband, Cecil; children Ralph, Lillian and Linda; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



PARIS, ONT.—**Major Sara "Peggy" Wheeler** was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer in 1967 as a member of the Witnesses to the Faith Session. Sara loved to sing, preach and play her auto-harp in worship services. She enjoyed making crafts for her grandchildren and others, and working with seniors. She always had time for her five grandchildren. The family would like to thank Sara's many caregivers who helped during her battle with cancer. Sara is remembered by husband, Donald, of 45 years; daughters Carrie (John) Anderson and Robbin (Reginald) Deck; sisters Audrey (John) Hewitt and Emeline (Walter) Gosse; eight brothers and many friends.



150 MILE HOUSE, B.C.—Lifelong Salvation Army soldier **Lillian Ann Mastrovalerio (nee Dougans)** was born in 1932 in Burnaby, B.C. Lillian and her husband, Joseph, moved their young family to Surrey Township and were active in the Newton Corps. They subsequently attended the Whalley Corps, later re-named North Surrey, until moving to Mission, B.C., in 1992. Left to celebrate Lillian's memory are children Alana Ford, Dina (Allan) Kennedy, Anthony (Nancy), Darcy, Glenda (Joe) Gregor and three grandchildren.



LA SCIE, N.L.—Born in La Scie, N.L., in 1928, **Captain Cyril Morey** entered The Salvation Army training college in St. John's, N.L., in 1950. After commissioning, he married Lieutenant Nellie Duffney from Fortune, N.L. They loved ministering to the people of Newfoundland. Left with fond memories are wife, Nellie; sons Lorne (Olive) and Roger (Minnie); daughter, Brenda; daughter-in-law, Kathy Morey; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters Ruby (Jackie), Major Ivy (Len) Monk; and many other relatives and friends.



WOODSTOCK, N.L.—**Francis Decker** was born in 1914. He was a founding member of the corps in Woodstock, N.L., and part of the first group of soldiers to be enrolled there. Francis was also its first corps sergeant major. He lived a godly life in line with Scripture. He will be remembered for his great faith in God and his love for people. Francis is missed by his children Rex (Maisie), Roy (Geraldine), Shirley (Don), Terry (Greta), Ford (Joan), Rosalie (Harris) and Ron (Vera); brother, Samuel (Liz); sister, Beulah (Wells) and step-sister, Ruby Ruth; 21 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.



HAMILTON, ONT.—**William Henry "Bill" Burditt** was born in Hereford, England, in 1926. He came to Canada as an infant with his parents and older sister, Vera. He became a senior soldier at the Barton Street Corps and subsequently served at Hamilton Citadel and Argyle Citadel for more than 60 years as a bandsman and bandmaster. Bill was a devoted supporter and organizer of the Selkirk music camp. One of his proudest moments was his appointment by Lt-Colonel Norman Bearcroft as a founding member of the Canadian Staff Band. In retirement, he became a member and then the bandmaster of Heritage Brass, formerly known as the Ontario Central Reservist Band. Bill was the beloved husband of Marguerite for 63 years; father of Barbara (Don) Marshall, Brian (Susan) and Sharon (Larry) McGuire; brother of Vera (Les) Riman; and loving grandfather of 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.



Listening for God

Finding the right spiritual mentor can help you grow deeper in your faith

BY MAJOR GAIL WINSOR



While the practice of spiritual direction originated in the earliest days of the Christian faith, for many of us it remains uncharted territory. Perhaps you're even wondering: What is spiritual direction? Why do people seek it? What are the benefits of meeting with a spiritual director? How do I find one? Let me offer a few insights based on my own experience.

Spiritual Direction

As Christians, we need to listen for God as he speaks into our lives. In an ideal world, we would have little difficulty hearing the voice of God. However, most of us live in a noisy world where it can

be a challenge to discern his leading. As we seek to be more sensitive to God's Spirit, we can benefit from inviting someone to help us be better attuned to God's voice. This is the task of a spiritual director.

Spiritual directors are not gurus who provide answers for all our questions or challenges. They are people who have been specifically trained to accompany others in the quest for a deeper relationship with God. In fact, it may be best to view God as the true Spiritual Director who enables these people to minister his grace to their directees.

Benefits of the Process

There are many reasons why


people seek spiritual direction. Some may be looking for help in finding God's will for significant life decisions. Others may be in the midst of a crisis. Many, however, seek out a spiritual director simply because they want to deepen their relationship with God and they recognize the value of inviting another mature Christian to support them in that journey. The relationship may be for a season of life—such as to offer some stability during a time of transition—or may extend for many years.

When I began meeting with a spiritual director, one of the first things I noticed was the emphasis on listening. While we pray, talk and read Scripture together, the focus is on listening for what God is saying. The meetings with my director are not two-way dialogues, but rather three-way conversations with God as the primary contributor. For that reason we allow periods of silence, which help us be attentive to God. The director's role consists primarily of listening to the Spirit, listening to whatever I choose to share, and helping me to discover ways in which I can be more aware of and responsive to what the Spirit is saying to me. In this sense, spiritual direction has also become an expression of Christian community where I am ministered to by a fellow pilgrim.

There are several aspects of spiritual direction that I have come to appreciate. One is the intentionality of the process. The relationship with my spiritual director is different from any other because it exists for the specific purpose of nurturing my relationship with God. This frees us to keep the conversation focused on how God has been active in my life and what I am learning about God and myself through that process. Initially this felt like a luxury. How many of us have the privilege of having ongoing conversations that centre on

our spiritual well-being? I also felt self-conscious about inviting another person to be so attentive to my spiritual life. After the first few meetings, however, I came to accept this time as a gift from God that helps me grow deeper in my relationship with him.

Secondly, meeting with my spiritual director provides me with an oasis amid the busyness of life. We meet once a month, so I can be assured that whatever else is happening, there will be that quiet hour when I can pause to reflect more deeply on what God is doing in me and through me. I do not mean to suggest that this replaces spiritual disciplines such as prayer and keeping the Sabbath. Rather, it is a gentle means of keeping me accountable for the way I integrate these disciplines into my life.

Spiritual direction may not be for everyone. Each person's experience will be different, just as each of us is a unique creation of God. For me, its intentionality has helped me transition from seeing time with God as a luxury, to viewing it as key to nurturing my relationship with him. Since this relationship affects every other aspect of my life, I need to ensure that it is a priority. What could be more important than that? 

How do I find a spiritual director?

Look for someone who is:

- qualified and accredited
- a good fit in the initial interview
- recommended by others
- connected with a Christian worshipping community

To obtain a list of spiritual directors in your area, contact Major David Ivany, territorial spiritual director and pastoral services officer, at david_ivany@can.salvationarmy.org

Major Gail Winsor is the leadership development resource officer, THQ personnel services.



Don't Bet On It

Rather than gambling on Lady Luck, we should place our trust in God alone

BY MAJOR FRED ASH

I sat in a barber shop in a mall. Outside the large glass windows was a lottery booth. Since I had a long wait to get my hair cut and the magazines were two years old, I entertained myself by watching the people buying lottery tickets.

One elderly lady intrigued me. She must have been approaching 80. Her long, winter coat hung loosely on her frail body. Her wrinkled face looked drawn and pale. I first noticed her standing beside the trash can tearing off tabs from instant-win lottery tickets. One, two, three tabs. No win. She threw the losing ticket into the garbage and then began on another. One, two, three tabs. No win. She threw that one in the garbage as well, and on and on it went.

After going through the stack of tickets in her hand she was left with a few “winners”—if you could call them winners because all they entitled her to was more “free” tickets. She took them to the lottery booth, exchanged them for money and bought another handful of tickets. Then the whole process started again. One, two, three tabs. No win. Throw the useless cards into the trash. This exercise went on for at least a quarter of an hour—tearing off tabs, throwing useless tickets away, buying more—until finally I was called to get my hair cut.

Somewhere between my eyebrow trim and neck shave, the elderly woman ran out of money. She hobbled off poorer but no wiser. I wondered if she had enough food to eat at home. I thought about the fresh fruit or new coat she could have purchased. I wondered what compelled her to throw her money away so aimlessly. Was it a dream that she would be rich? Was it desperation? Was it hope that her failed life would somehow, miraculously, turn around and she would at last come out a winner?

As a child I was enrolled as a junior soldier in The Salvation Army. Among the promises this 10-year-old made was: “I promise not to gamble.” At 10, I hardly knew what gambling was. I knew that in our house playing cards was not allowed because it was associated with gambling and no matter what kind of innocent game some of my friends played—from Crazy Eights to Go Fish—there was no legitimate reason for the “Devil’s cards” to come into our house. To this day I still can’t play cards. The closest I ever got to gambling was playing Snakes and Ladders with my mother.

At the age of 14 I was enrolled as a senior soldier in the Army. And there it was again, the promise not to gamble. Since


I hadn’t gambled up to that point, I felt I might as well not begin. That promise, first made when I was a child and then affirmed as a teenager, has kept me in good stead. To this day I have never bought a lottery ticket, played online gambling or gone to a bingo game. And I don’t feel as though I am missing anything.

For Christians who think that gambling is just harmless fun, consider this: more than three percent of Canadian adults are affected by moderate to severe problem gambling. In a population of 34 million, that puts the number of problem gamblers into the hundreds of thousands. Problem gamblers affect their families by wasting money that could have gone into children’s education, a mortgage or a family vacation. Problem gambling sometimes results in criminal activities as gamblers steal money or sell drugs to support their habit. It can also result in the loss of homes and family when the gambler has to declare bankruptcy. Every time Christians engage in gambling they become a part of the problem.

From a biblical standpoint, what is wrong with gambling? First, it encourages avarice—the insatiable desire for wealth. The Bible warns: “Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

Second, it is a form of robbery. All winnings come from someone else’s pockets. For every lottery winner there are hundreds of losers—people who are going to go home with empty purses, perhaps empty bank accounts, because their money was taken by someone who gave nothing in return. If you take something from someone and give nothing back then you are a thief. “Neither ... thieves nor the greedy ... nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Third, gambling is a form of idolatry, the worshipping of a false god. The gambler is counting on Lady Luck, on chance, while God our heavenly Father has promised that he will provide for us. “My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

You think God overlooks your little gaming habit? Don’t bet on it. 

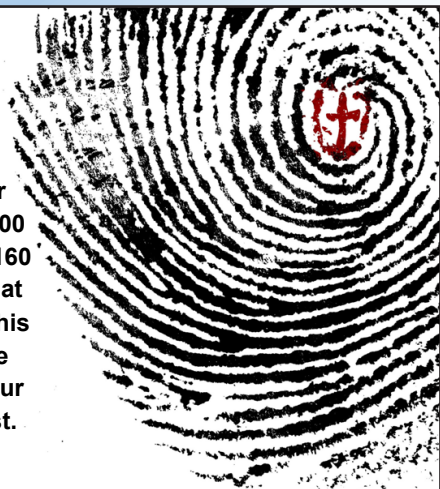
Major Fred Ash is the corps officer at Burlington Community Church, Ont.



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